
Seattle's Central Waterfront Plan Background Report

Urban Design Graphic Supplement

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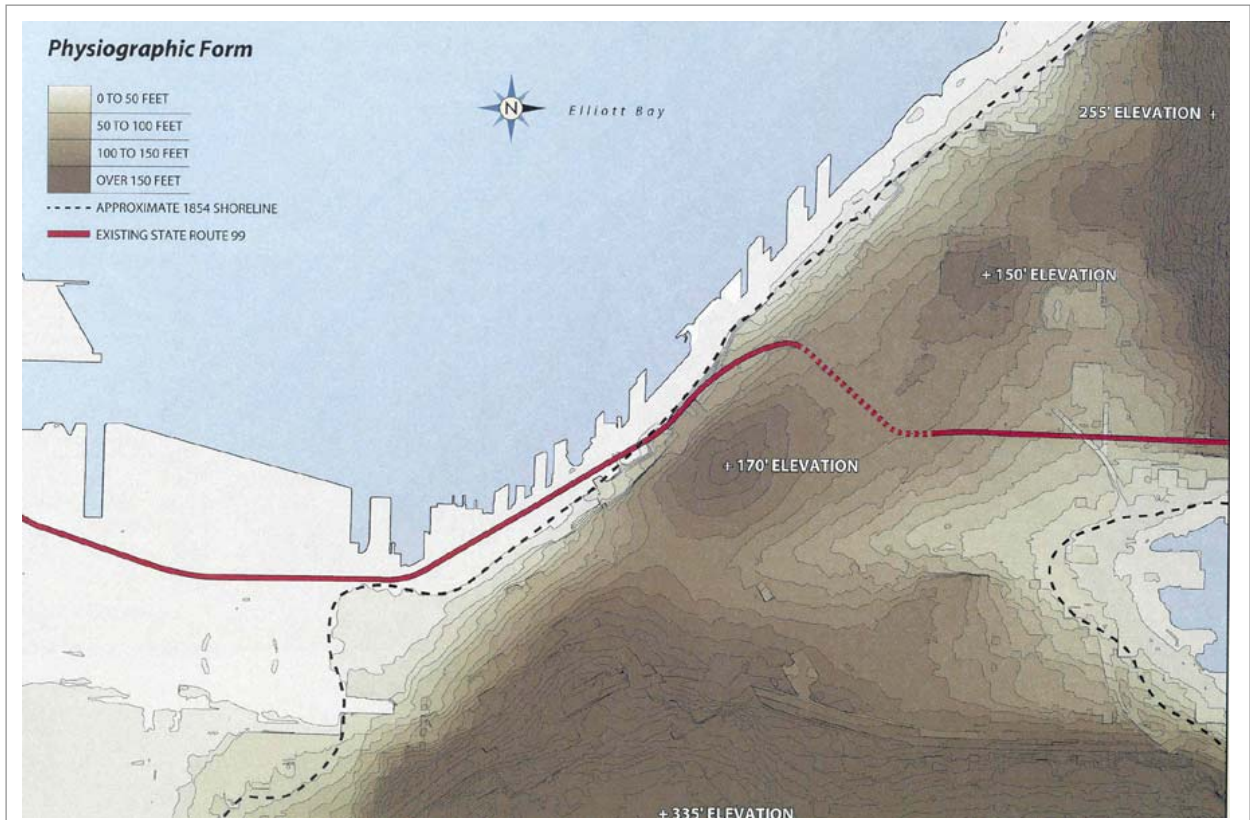
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Overview

This supplement is geared to enhance the Urban Design Background Report, providing a visual reference to many aspects of Seattle's Central Waterfront highlighted in the report. Apart from a thorough street-by-street inspection of the entire waterfront area (which you are encouraged to do), the following collections of images might stimulate your thinking about how neighborhood moments, various tides of waterfront development, past waterfront visions all play into our collective vision of Seattle's water edge.

Urban Form

Topography



Topographic image of seattle – darker indicates increase in elevation (ROMA 2004)



Steep slopes climb up Wall St (2004)

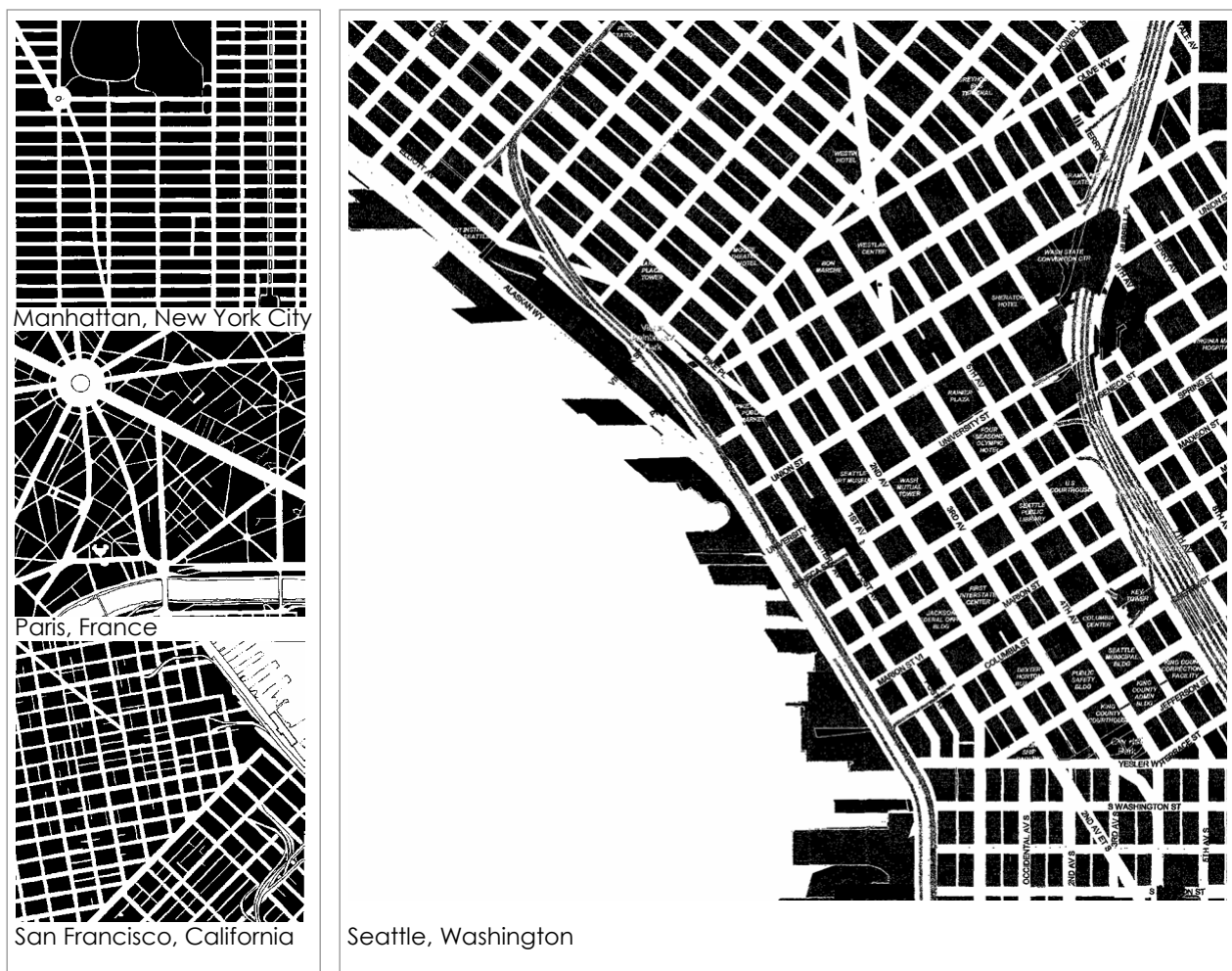


Abrupt grade change revealed @ Columbia St (2004)

Development Pattern

Platting

Part or all of nearly every American city has developed according to an ordered division of land, comprised of building lots, open spaces, and public rights-of-way. Seattle began as three main grid systems, intersecting at Yesler Way at the south and Stewart Street and Olive Way at the north. This collision, made more complicated by the dramatic topography, yields a great variety of block types and sizes, and marks the resulting development as uniquely 'Seattle.'



Development Character

Seattle's 150+ year history of development, disaster, vision, and surging and retreating of industry has yielded an urban mosaic; buildings of various ages, materials, character, and form occupy adjacent lots, offering some clues as to the forces shaping their creation. In four distinct areas along the Central Waterfront – Belltown, Alaskan Way Corridor *Shoreline*, Alaskan Way Corridor *Inland*, and the 1st Avenue Corridor – all display a more or less distinguishable identity. Belltown, for instance, is known for the recent rapid mixed use residential development along 1st Avenue. The 1st Avenue Corridor, on the other hand, conveys much of the chronological history of Seattle's development, from a concentration of turn-of-the-century brick buildings at the south end, to cutting edge glass and steel high-rises to the north. Alaskan Way, dominated since the beginning by shipping and transportation routes, contains much the same spread of history as 1st Avenue.

Within each of the following sections, special care is taken to select images indicative of each area's distinctive character.

Belltown

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Character: Belltown* for written description)

Materials



Early 20th
Century
Brick



Exposed
Aggregate
Concrete



Late 20th
Century
Brick

Architecture



Regrading Denny Hill (1909)



Crystal Pool Natatorium
(1927)



Residential tower @
1st Avenue & Marion
(2004)



1st Avenue & Marion (2004)



New streets in Denny Regrade (looking
north) (1935)

Alaskan Way Corridor - Inland

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Character: Alaskan Way - Inland* for written description)

Materials



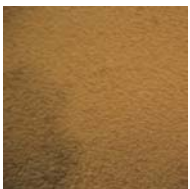
Early 20th
Century
Brick



Marble-
Crete



Painted
Plaster



Painted
Stucco

Architecture



Looking north along Alaskan
Way from Washington St
(early 1800's)



Warehouse fronting onto
Alaskan Way (2004)



Looking north @ Alaskan
Way & Broad Street



Condominiums on
Alaskan Way between
Stuart & Bell Streets



Alaskan Way
Marriott Hotel
(2004)

Alaskan Way Corridor - Shoreline

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Character: Alaskan Way - Shoreline* for written description)

Materials



Wood



Painted
Plaster

Architecture



Northern Pacific Warehouse @ 3rd Avenue & Lane St (1891)



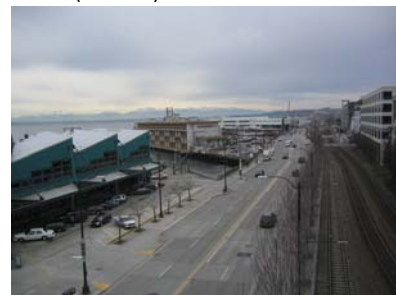
Looking south along Alaskan
Way from Pier 5 (1934)



Looking north along Alaskan
Way from Washington St
(1800's)



Looking south along Alaskan
Way from Bell Street Pedestrian
Overpass (2004)



Looking south along Alaskan
Way from Bell Street Pedestrian
Overpass (2004)

1st Avenue Corridor

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Character: 1st Avenue Corridor* for written description)

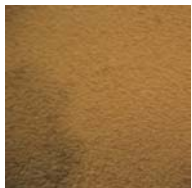
Materials



Early 20th
Century
Brick



Painted
Plaster



Painted
Stucco

Architecture



Looking north along 1st Avenue between Cherry & Columbia (1888)



Looking north along 1st from
Marion St (2004)



Looking northwest at Harbor
Steps along 1st Avenue (2004)



Looking north toward Pike St & Pike Place
Market (2004)



Looking northeast along
1st Avenue from Cherry St
(2004)

Development Type

Each of the areas described above (please see appropriate sections in Urban Design Report) merits a further breakdown into the different types of development. Until the 1930's, the waterfront's streets were lined with piers, pier sheds, warehouses, light manufacturing, and sporadic housing further upland. With the shifting of goods distribution further south to the mouth of the Duwamish and (now) Terminal 46, and north to the Interbay area, development priorities have come to include new uses such as housing, commercial (office), and recreation. Below are images that are intended to highlight past and present examples of each of the categories: Marine Related, Industrial Warehouse, Infrastructure Elements, Recent Development, and Landmarks.

Marine Related Development

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Type: Marine Related Development* for more information)

Materials



Wood

Architecture



Pier D looking west (early 1900's)



Pier 55 looking west (2004)



Looking south along the waterfront from Pier 66 (2003)



Pier 66 'south' looking west (2004)



Northern Pacific Warehouse @ 3rd Avenue & Lane St (1891)



Looking north along Railroad Avenue from King St (1925)

Pier 6 looking northwest (1938)



Looking northwest toward Pier 66 loading military transport (1940's)

Industrial and Warehouse

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Type: Industrial and Warehouse* for more information)

Materials



Early 20th
Century
Brick



Painted
Plaster



Painted
Stucco

Architecture



Warehouse between Western Ave & Alaskan Way (1917)



Albers Milling Co. (1907)



Warehouse north of Alaskan Way & Broad St (2004)

Warehouse @ Alaskan Way & Spring St (2004)



Infrastructure Elements

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Type: Infrastructure Elements* for more information)

Alaskan Way Seawall



Seawall as seen from the water (1934)



Seawall construction from land side (1934)

Passenger ferry (1903)



Ferry dock (1939)

Alaskan Way Viaduct

Waterfront Trestle @ Pine St looking north (1888)



Looking north along Alaskan way from Washington St (early 1800's)



Railroad Avenue (now Alaskan Way) looking north (1917)



Alaskan Way Viaduct looking north from Colman Dock (1952)



Recent Development

(Please see *Urban Design: Development Type: Recent Development* for more information)

Residential



Condominiums on Cedar St & Elliott Ave (2004)



Condominiums on Alaskan Way between Stuart & Bell Streets (2004)



Residential/Office tower @ (2004)



Condominiums on Wall St (2004)

Commercial



World Trade Center West @ Lenora Ave (2004)



Alaskan Way Marriott Hotel @ Virginia St(2004)

Landmarks

Part of what gives an area its identity is the presence of culturally significant landmarks. Throughout Seattle's history its politicians, businesspeople, and residents have realized symbolic markers of special moments, heroic deeds, and triumphant community achievement. The following images offer just a glimpse of some of these, many of which still exist.



Smith Tower @ Yesler & Second Avenue (2004)



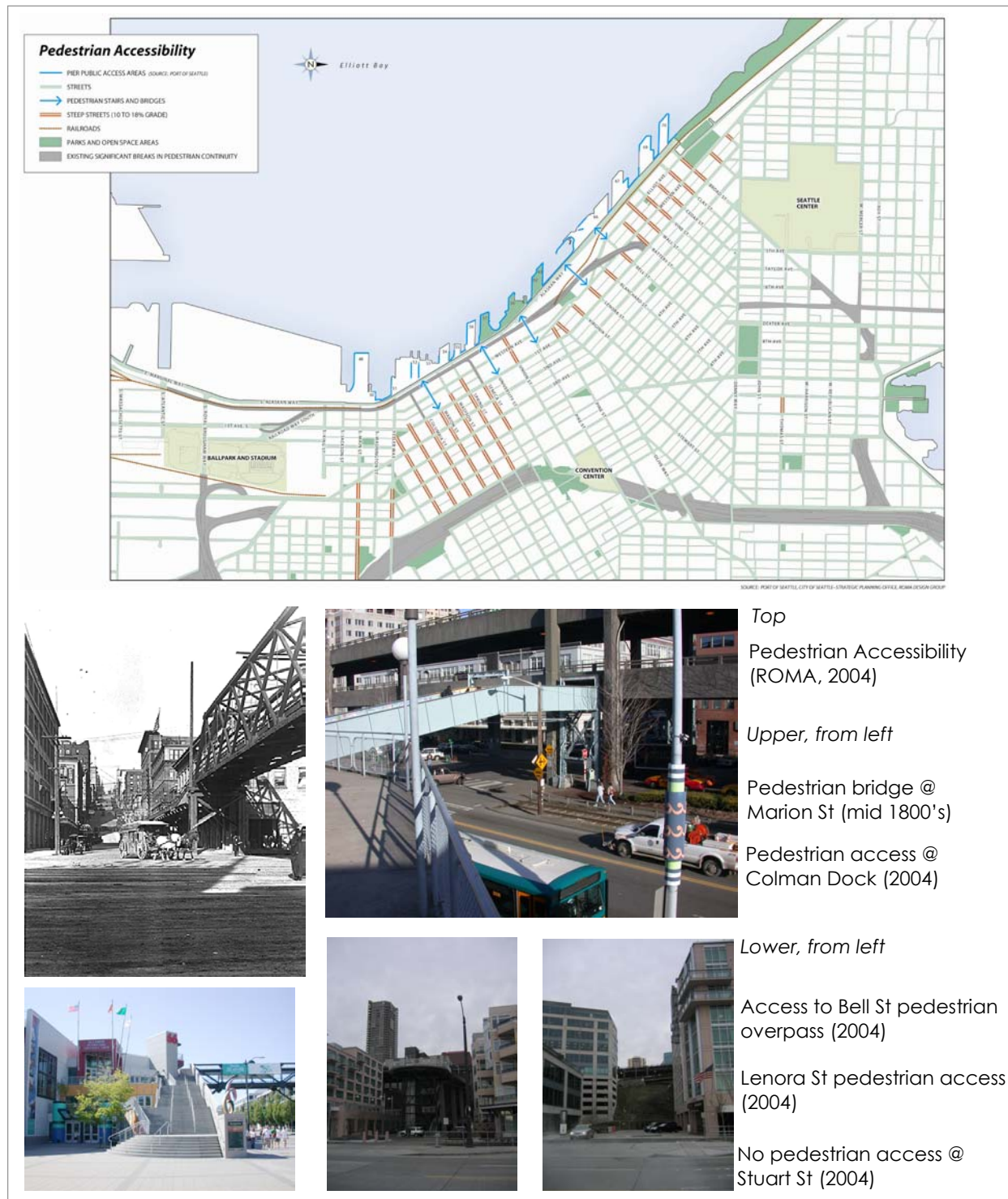
Grand Trunk Pacific Pier (1885)



Colman Dock looking east (no date)

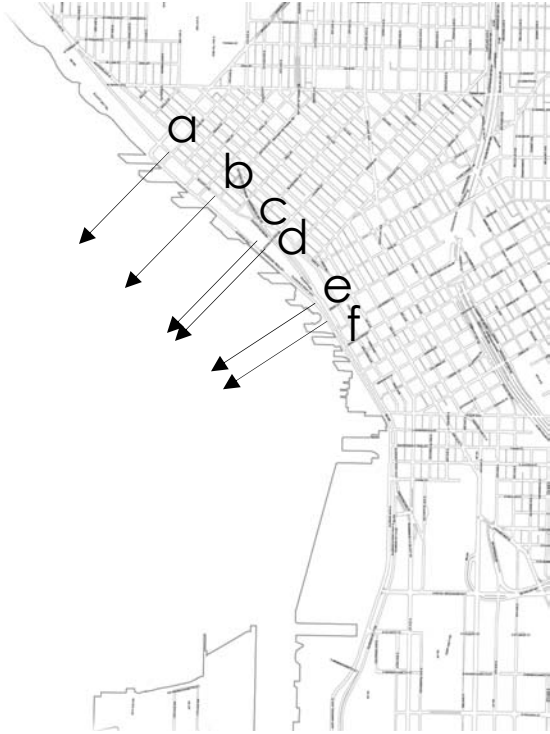
Physical Connections

(Please see *Urban Design: Connection and Integration: Physical Connections* for more information)




Views and Visual Connections

(See Appendix A, Background report for analysis of physical connections)





Map of seattle

Looking west @ 1st Ave & Clay St (2004)




Looking northwest @ 1st Ave & Wall St (2004)





Looking west @ 1st Ave & Blanchard St (2004)





Looking west @ 1st Ave & Bell St (2004)

Lower, from left

Looking west @ 1st Ave & University St (2004)

Looking west @ 1st Ave & Spring St (2004)





Sources

University of Washington Special Collections

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/all-collections.html>

Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) online database:

http://www.seattlehistory.org/mohai_rights_page.cfm